

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /137 W
----- 063017

R 280802 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4600

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 06202

E. O. 11652: GDSTAGS: PFOR, IN, BG, PK

SUBJECT: INDO- BANGLADESH TALKS ON PAKISTANI ATTITUDE; NEXT STEPS

SUMMARY: INDIANS CONTINUE TO TELL US THEY ARE PUZZLED OVER WHAT THEY SEE AS INCONSISTENT PAKISTANI MOVES REGARDING THE APRIL 17 PORPOSALS. BUT THEY AND BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVES BELIEVE THAT IN THEMSELVES THESE MOVES DO NOT BAR POSSIBILITY OF TALKS WITH PAKISTAN. THE INDIANS ARE NOW PREPARING A NEW LETTER TO AZIZ AHMED WHICH IS LIKELY TO PROMPT A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BUT TO STOP SHORT OF ACCEPTING EARLY TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVES SAID VERY LITTLE PUBLICLY ABOUT THEIR MAY 21-23 TALKS IN DELHI. THERE WAS NO STATEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE. BACKGROUNDERS POINTED UP SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT OVER PAKISTANI MANEUVERS AND COMPLETE INDO- BANGLADESH AGREEMENT ON STRATEGY. THE ONLY NOTEWORTHY PUBLIC COMMENT WAS A HARD STATEMENT BY BANGLADESH FOREIGN SECRETARY KARIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TALKS THAT THE TRIALS WOULD BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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2. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY JOINT SECRETARY FOR PAKISTAN CHIB
TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSEL ON MAY 26 THAT THE INDIANS SAW POSITIVE

ELEMENTS IN THE LETTER RECEIVED FROM AZIZ AHMED MAY 16 PARTICULARLY
THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT IOS' S, BENGALIEE AND PAKISTANI DETAINEES
WERE ALL HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WHICH COULD BE DISCUSSED TOGETHER.
BUT THEY WERE PUZZLED OVER PAKISTANI TACTICS. THE INDIANS HAD
RECEIVED A SEPARATE COMMUNICATION FROM PAKISTAN ON MAY 11, A
VERY TOUGH AIDE MEMOIR DEALING WITH A RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING
THE POW' S, BENGALIEES, AND BIHARIS. ACCORDING TO CHIB THE INDIANS
DID NOT KNOW WHICH MESSAGE REPRESENTED PAKISTAN' S CURRENT ATTITUDE.

3. CHIB SAID THE PAKISTANI APPORACH TO THE ICAO ON OVERFLIGHTS WAS
A REVERSAL OF AN ORIGINAL PAKISTANI SUGGESTION, AND INDIAN AGREEMENT,
THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE RESUMED IN THE ICAO
FOR THE TIME BEING. MOREOVER, THE ARREST OF THE BENGALIEES WAS
CLEARLY A RETALIATORY MOVE AND WAS IRRITATING TO BANGLADESH.

4. AS FOR THE PAKISTANI APPEAL TO THE ICJ, SHIB SAID THERE HAD BEEN
SOME PRESSURE IN THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW THE FRENCH AND ICELAN-

DIC PRECEDENTS: SIMPLY DENY ICJ JURISDICTION AND REFUSE TO
DISCUSS IT. THE INDIANS, HOWEVER, HAD DECIDED TO ARGUE THE CASE,
HOPED THE ICJ WOULD EVALUATE ITS MERITS, AND NOW BELIEVED THEY HAD
ASTRONG POSITION. (ATTORNEY GENERAL NIREN DE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTRY LEGAL ADVISOR JAGOTA HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO THE HAGUE,
THE ICJ IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN HEARINGS ON THE PAKISTANI PETITION MAY
29).

5. CHIB CONCLUDED THAT INDIA DOES NOT SEE ANY OF THE RECENT
PAKISTANI MOVES IN AND OF THEMSELVES AS BARRING TALKS WITH
PAKISTAN. THE BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVES HAD CONCURRED IN
THIS. THE INDIANS WERE NOW PREPARING A NEW LETTER TO AZIZ AHMED
WHICH CHIB THOUGHT WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN
AZIZ AHMED' S MAY 16 MESSAGE RATHER THAN THE MAY 11 " NEGATIVE"
LINE.

6. COMMENT: WE CONCLUDE FROM CHIB' S REMARKS THAT THE
INDIAN RESPONSE IS LIKELY TO PROMOTE A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF
MESSAGES BUT WILL STOP WELL SHORT OF ACCEPTING EARLY TALKS

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WITH PAKISTON.
MOYNIHAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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THE HAGUE

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